
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6919

AN ACT REQUIRING NEWBORN SCREENING FOR DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY.

SUMMARY

Starting July 1, 2027, this bill requires all newborns to be tested for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) as part of the Department of Public Health's newborn screening program for genetic and metabolic disorders.

Under existing law, the newborn screening program requires health care institutions, licensed nurse-midwives, and midwives to perform newborn screenings using blood spot specimens between 24 and 48 hours after the infant's birth, except under limited conditions (e.g., it is medically contraindicated or a parent objects on religious grounds).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

DMD is one of the most severe forms of muscular dystrophy characterized by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness. It usually presents between ages two and three and primarily affects males.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/05/2025)